

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-17. Canceled.

18. (Currently amended) An isolated antibody that binds to the ligand binding A region of an SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis* wherein said region is encoded by the nucleic acid sequence consisting of having the sequence of nucleotides 252 to 1895 of SEQ ID NO:7.

19. (Currently amended) AnThe isolated antibody according to Claim 18capable of binding to an amino acid sequence consisting of wherein the ligand binding A region of an SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein has the sequence of from amino acids 51 to amino acid 598 of SEQ ID NO:10.

20. (New) The isolated antibody according to Claim 19 wherein the antibody is raised against the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

21. (New) The isolated antibody according to Claim 19 that recognizes the ligand binding A region of the SdrG fibrinogen-binding protein from coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

22. (New) A diagnostic kit for an antigen comprising the antibody according to Claim 7 and a means for identifying binding by said antibody to an antigen in a sample.

23. (New) The isolated antisera containing the antibody according to Claim 19.